

Members

Sen. Thomas Wyss, Chairman
Sen. Charles Meeks
Sen. Timothy Skinner
Sen. John Broden
Rep. Tiny Adams
Rep. David Crooks
Rep. Robert Cherry
Rep. Timothy Neese



PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS EVALUATION COMMITTEE

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: July 15, 2003
Meeting Time: 1:30 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., 431
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Sen. Thomas Wyss, Chairman; Sen. Charles Meeks; Sen. Timothy Skinner; Rep. Tiny Adams; Rep. Robert Cherry.

Members Absent: Sen. John Broden; Rep. David Crooks; Rep. Timothy Neese.

Chairman Thomas Wyss called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. After making introductions, Chairman Wyss announced the Committee's agenda for the interim as follows:

- Nightclub safety and pyrotechnics - presentation by ATF officer concerning the Rhode Island nightclub investigation, discussion on standardized training of public safety officers and regional training centers, meeting to be held on July 31st at Wayne Township (Marion County) Fire Department Headquarters Building;
- BMV issues - discussion on titling of vehicles to be held at future date; and
- Other security matters.

Representative Adams expressed his appreciation for Chairman Wyss' efforts to bring training and terrorism topics back to the Committee.

Chairman Wyss then introduced Director Clifford Ong of the Indiana Counter-Terrorism and Security Council (established by executive order) for his presentation. Director Ong provided information on the scope of the Council's work and Indiana's Strategy for Homeland Security.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Director Ong provided the members with a handout (Exhibit 1) correlating with his presentation.

Members expressed interest in the funding for homeland security, and Director Ong provided the following responses to members' questions:

- funding is available from the Office of Domestic Preparedness for localities to upgrade their 800 MHz equipment, although it is unknown how the money will be distributed among the counties;
- the federal government will only pay for systems that are interoperable; and
- the funding is intended for homeland security and it does not revert to the federal government if it is not fully spent by local entities.

Chairman Wyss pointed out the need for the state to encourage regional efforts, as funding is distributed on a population basis and resources are being duplicated.

In response to members' questions regarding the statewide 800 MHz voice and data communications systems, Director Ong stated that:

- many of the towers in the system are preexisting, are aging, and may be obsolete; and
- the State Police currently utilize some privately owned towers in its system.

State Fire Marshal Tracy Boatwright mentioned that the members could obtain a map of all the radio towers and respective information on Project Hoosier SAFE-T from the State Police.

Chairman Wyss announced that cooperation between the Counter-Terrorism Council, state government, and federal government has been great.

In response to a question regarding the storage or disposal of a hazardous substance in a federal structure within the state, Fire Marshal Boatwright stated that there would be interaction between the federal and state governments in response to a disaster.

As State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) Executive Director Patrick Ralston could not attend the meeting due to recent major flooding, Manuela Johnson, Director of the Anti-terrorism Division of the Indiana State Emergency Management Agency, spoke of the September 15th deadline for local government first responders to apply for homeland security reimbursement funds from the federal government. Information concerning the grants is available on the SEMA website. She also spoke of the reassessment which will help develop a three-year security strategy and help retain federal funding. Representative Cherry encouraged Director Johnson to work with the Association of Indiana Counties for help increasing participation in the reassessment.

Chairman Wyss restated the next meeting date of July 31st at 9:30 a.m. at which nightclub and fire safety would be discussed, and then adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.